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ARTS COMMISSION TO LAUNCH TWO DOWNTOWN PUBLIC ART PROJECTS

The City of Raleigh Arts Commission will be unveiling two interactive public art projects, "Zoom Raleigh" and "Horizon Line," in Downtown Raleigh in time for the Raleigh Wide Open 4 celebration on Saturday, Oct. 24. A reception celebrating both projects and an exhibition of the **ART-ON-THE-MOVE** art designs, will take place on Friday, Oct. 23, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the City's Urban Design Center and the Fish Market Gallery, both located at 133 Fayetteville St. The free reception will be open to the public.

"Zoom Raleigh" a temporary interactive window installation at the Urban Design Center, has been developed under the artistic direction of Patrick FitzGerald, director of the Advanced Media Lab at North Carolina State University (NCSU). "Zoom Raleigh" will enable viewers to actively engage with touch screen technology that explores various historical and current locations in Downtown Raleigh. Through hand gestures, passers-by will be able to manipulate a three-dimensional digital model of downtown, select buildings of interest, and interact with historical photographs, text, multi-media montages, archival materials, and interviews specific to selected downtown sites.

Prior to joining the faculty of the College of Design at NCSU, Mr. FitzGerald served as an instructor, artist and manager at the Kodak Center for Creative Imaging in Camden, Maine. His work has been exhibited across the United States and Japan. As director of NCSU's Advanced Media Lab, Mr. FitzGerald's research and teaching span the full range of multimedia production, from digital video to interactive 3-D animation.

"Zoom Raleigh" is co-sponsored by the Raleigh City Museum, City of Raleigh Planning Department, American Image Graphics, and Empire Properties. "Zoom Raleigh" will be on view from Oct. 23 to Jan. 1.

The second interactive public art project, “Horizon Line,” will be a permanent display that employs cutting-edge light technology to create two colorful, interactive and imaginative spaces for pedestrians entering and exiting the City Plaza in the 500 block of Fayetteville Street. Designed by Chapel Hill artists Susan Harbage Page and Juan Logan, the installation of 16 4-foot-by-8-foot LED lighting panels will conceal unsightly electrical utility equipment adjacent to the BB&T and Bank of America buildings on City Plaza. Motion sensors activate as pedestrians pass by, triggering a spectrum of colors and forms that slowly shift in relation to seasonal changes in temperature, creating movement within the surrounding area.

Ms. Page’s art can be found in many public and private collections, including the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Birmingham, Ala., Museum of Art, the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Israel Museum. Ms. Page teaches in the studio art department at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Earlier this year, she completed a series of bus shelters in Charlotte that celebrate the community. The project is called *Welcome to Cherry Street*. Recently, Ms. Page collaborated with Mr. Logan on an acclaimed installation, *Prop Master*, at the Gibbes Museum in Charleston, S.C.

Mr. Logan, who also teaches in the art department at UNC-Chapel Hill, has created art featured in more than 250 solo and group exhibitions in venues across the country, including exhibitions at the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem. Mr. Logan has just completed designing the plaza in front of the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Art and Culture at the Wells Fargo Cultural Campus in Charlotte.

The Oct. 23 reception also will include an exhibition of the original designs for the second round of **ART-ON-THE-MOVE**, a public art project featuring artwork by local artists that is exhibited on the sides of Capital Area Transit buses. The first **ART-ON-THE-MOVE** was in 2007.

For more information about “Zoom Raleigh,” “Horizon Line,” and the **ART-ON-THE-MOVE** exhibition, contact the City of Raleigh Arts Commission, 996-3610, or visit www.raleighnc.gov/arts.

Established in 1977 as the official advisory body and advocate for the arts to the Raleigh City Council, the City of Raleigh Arts Commission holds the distinction of being the first municipal arts commission created in North Carolina. Serving as the leading force to champion the arts with Raleigh citizens and their representatives, the Arts Commission’s myriad activities foster, support, and promote the arts in the Capital City.